Safetygram

ISM-121 LABORATORY PERSONNEL MAY 2002

WALK-IN REFRIGERATORS OR FREEZERS

The following potential hazards are associated with walk-in refrigerators or freezers:

- X Oxygen depletion if dry ice is stored inside.
- X Someone can be trapped inside if the outside latch is inadvertently secured.
- X Extremely slippery floors due to frost formation.
- X Potential biological hazards in the stored specimens.

To minimize the hazard to personnel, the following precautions should be taken:

- X Do not store dry ice (or packages in which dry ice is used as a refrigerant) in walk-in refrigerators or freezers.
- X Clearly label all items in storage.
- X Access to walk-in refrigerators or freezers should be limited to designated personnel only.
- X Required maintenance should be coordinated with the appropriate facility personnel.
- X Place rubber mats on floors to prevent slips/falls.

If you have any questions on the potential hazards associated with walk-in refrigerators or freezers, please call EHS at x1451.